

ER 9-0736 ILLEGIB

The Honorable Herbert Brownell, Jr.
The Attorney General
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Brownell:

On 8 January 1957 we were orally informed by representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Soviet espionage case conducted by the Bureau which has led to the arrest of persons known as Jack Soble, Myrd Soble, and Jacob Alban. At that time, requests were made for certain information and the oral requests were confirmed by a letter of 10 January 1957 from the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Since that time we have been in contact with the Bureau representatives in an effort to comply with their requests for information.

The arrests took place on 25 January 1957, and it is now our understanding that the individuals have pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy to violate the espionage laws and the Government is prepared to go to trial, perhaps as early as 18 March 1957. We wish, of course, to cooperate in any appropriate manner so as to assure the success of prosecution in these cases. A number of questions have been raised by the Federal Bureau of Investigation which relate to the presentation of evidence and the identity of personnel who would testify to certain points. These raise the possible involvement of certain matters which, if presented in open court, might adversely affect the foreign intelligence activities of this Agency. In view of my responsibility for protection of intelligence sources and methods, I believe it is essential that the prosecution be so planned and carried out that information would not be revealed which would be seriously detrimental to the security and effectiveness of our foreign intelligence activities.

To this end, I propose that Mr. Lawrence R. Houston, General Counsel of this Agency, establish liaison with the attorneys responsible for the prosecution of any persons involved in this matter, to assist them in any way, and specifically to furnish any further pertinent information from our records, and to consult with them on points which if presented in court might adversely affect our foreign intelligence responsibilities. Would you inform me of the person or persons you wish to designate for this purpose so that the liaison may be established at the earliest opportunity?

Sincerely,

SIGNED

C. P. Cabell
Lieutenant General, USAF
Acting Director

cc: FBI
OGC/LRH:jeb:mks
Retyped for change in para 2 & Act Dir Sig O/DDCI:Mr.Houston:ekt
orig/- addressee
1 - FBI
1 - DDCI
~~1 - ER~~ *via Reading*
1 - CI Staff (Mr. Angleton)
1 - Security (Col. Edwards)
1 - General Counsel